

**Introduced by Senators Simitian, Cedillo, Hancock, Maldonado,
Pavley, and Price**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Blumenfield, Chesbro, Huffman, Lieu,
Monning, Nava, Ruskin, Salas, and Skinner)

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Senate Joint Resolution No. 18—Relative to marine aquaculture.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 18, as introduced, Simitian. Marine aquaculture.

This measure would request the Congress to develop a comprehensive federal regulatory framework for marine aquaculture that is at least as protective as that codified in California's Sustainable Oceans Act to address environmental and economic concerns.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, On June 12, 2009, President Barack Obama
2 established the federal Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force to
3 make recommendations for a comprehensive, integrated national
4 policy that addresses the use of ocean resources and ensures the
5 protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean and
6 coastal ecosystems and resources; and
7 WHEREAS, The protection of California's spectacular
8 1,100-mile coastline is of the utmost importance to Californians
9 and our state's coastal and ocean-dependent industries, including
10 commercial fishing; and
11 WHEREAS, California's ocean waters contain marine protected
12 areas and national marine sanctuaries that have special
13 conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, cultural,

1 archaeological, scientific, educational, and aesthetic qualities and
2 are particularly sensitive to the impacts of marine aquaculture; and

3 WHEREAS, Marine aquaculture poses serious risks to
4 California's ocean environment, including harmful interactions
5 between escaped fish and native ecosystems; pollution from excess
6 nutrients, waste feed, and release of drugs and chemicals;
7 introduction and spread of disease, pathogens, and parasites to the
8 ocean environment and marine wildlife; heightened pressure on
9 ocean ecosystems through wild capture of forage fish for feedstuffs;
10 threats to maritime safety and vessel navigation; potential negative
11 public health impacts; and stress on existing commercial fisheries
12 and coastal dependent communities; and

13 WHEREAS, Without strict protections for the natural
14 environment, marine aquaculture has the potential to degrade the
15 quality of our ocean water and adversely impact our wildlife and
16 resources, including native fish and marine mammals such as the
17 California seal and sea lion; and

18 WHEREAS, The California Sustainable Oceans Act (Chapter
19 36 of the Statutes of 2006) creates the strongest state regulation
20 of marine aquaculture by providing comprehensive state standards
21 to guard against the risks associated with marine aquaculture; and

22 WHEREAS, Responsible marine aquaculture that includes strict
23 and enforceable standards to protect the environment and
24 consumers has the ability to supply consumers with safe and high
25 quality seafood, protect the ocean from harm, and ensure the health
26 of native fish and wildlife; and

27 WHEREAS, Permitting marine aquaculture in federal waters
28 without a comprehensive, overarching federal regulatory
29 framework that includes science-based standards to protect the
30 ocean could result in significant and irreversible adverse
31 environmental consequences to coastal states; and

32 WHEREAS, The permitting of marine aquaculture in federal
33 waters off California's coast is of special interest to the state
34 because of the risks that marine aquaculture poses to the state's
35 ocean ecosystems; now, therefore, be it

36 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
37 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California
38 respectfully requests that the Congress of the United States develop
39 a comprehensive federal regulatory framework for marine
40 aquaculture that is at least as protective as that codified in

1 California's Sustainable Oceans Act to address the many
2 environmental and economic concerns; and be it further

3 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California
4 respectfully opposes expansion of marine aquaculture off the
5 Pacific Coast without such a regulatory framework in place, and
6 respectfully opposes any federal policies and legislation that would
7 weaken California's role in marine aquaculture permitting
8 decisions, given the threat that marine aquaculture poses to the
9 integrity of California's coastal and ocean health, dependent
10 tourism, and fishing economies and communities; and be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
12 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
13 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to each
14 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the
15 United States, to the Secretary of Commerce, and to the
16 Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
17 Administration.